

31 January 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Chief Justice Warren

1. At 4:30 P. M. on 28 January, a meeting was held in the offices of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy to discuss the handling of certain investigative material in the Oswald case and its use with certain Soviet defectors. Present were: Chief Justice Warren, Mr. J. Lee Rankin plus two of his Staff Assistants, Mr. Bolin of the Treasury, Inspector Malley of the Secret Service, Mr. Malley of the FBI, and the undersigned.

2. Chief Justice Warren opened the meeting by stating the Commission's desire to handle material before it with the greatest of care to avoid premature or undesirable publicity. He indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to try to reach an agreement among the agencies present about the use which each might make of material provided by the other. The undersigned gave a detailed exposition of the reasons for our interest in showing certain investigative material provided on Oswald by the FBI and the Secret Service to certain Soviet defectors available to us in this country. I pointed out that what we were interested in principally was to avail ourselves of their expertise. I briefly covered the role of the KGB in Soviet society, and recounted the function it would have had in a case such as that of Oswald. I indicated that the FBI had formerly told us we could not show any of its material to one of our defectors. Mr. Malley said that there was no problem as far as the FBI was concerned, that they were prepared to have information resulting from their investigations discussed with anyone we chose, and that the only prohibitions they had was the identification of sources or the actual showing of official FBI documents. This statement appeared to settle the problem for Chief Justice Warren and Mr. Rankin who indicated that each agency should deal bilaterally on the handling of documents. It was further agreed that the President's Commission would inform the FBI in writing of the investigative material turned over to the CIA for further study by experts and defectors.

3. At the end of the meeting, the undersigned rehearsed the material thus far provided to the Commission by the Agency:

a) Soviet bloc reaction to the President's assassination.

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- b) Draft questions to be presented to the Soviet Government.
- c) Draft questions to be used with Mrs. Oswald.
- d) A chronology of Oswald's stay in the Soviet Union.
- e) Traces on all the names contained in this chronology.

I stated that we hoped soon to have ready for presentation our recital of Oswald's trip to Mexico City to apply for Soviet and Cuban visas. Mr. Rankin asked us to speed up the preparation of this report and to have it in the Commission's hands by 1 February at the latest inasmuch as the Commission wished to review it before taking testimony from Mrs. Oswald on 3 February. In conclusion, I said that we would react with an analysis of any new material presented to the Agency which was currently in the hands of the Commission, the FBI, or the Secret Service.

4. On the way down town in the automobile after the meeting, Mr. Malley indicated privately that he was surprised that the meeting had been held at all. I reminded him that the purpose of the meeting was to clarify the Bureau's official statement to us that we could not draw any of their material to . Mr. Malley expressed surprise and said he was not familiar with any such FBI position. He said he would look into the matter but that he foresaw no difficulty in our using investigative data with Soviet defectors as long as we did not identify the sources or leave the actual documents in the defectors' hands.

(Signed) Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

cc: JDD/P